

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-14, 17, 19 and 20 have been allowed.

Claim 9 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, for not reciting "electrical contacts to feed electric current through the sheet material".

The current status of this rejection is unclear. Clarification is requested.

Reconsideration as to the indefiniteness rejection as to claim 1 is solicited.

Although the specification discloses that the inventive frame can be used for electrochemical treatment, the invention more generally is directed to a frame for holding a metal sheet material taut.

This aspect of the invention is what is recited in the preamble of claim 1. Also see the first sentence of specification page 1. Also see the first aim of the invention beginning on line 20 of specification page 1.

There is an embodiment of the invention which uses the electrical contacts on the frame to feed electric current through

the sheet material, and that embodiment is recited by claim 10.

Thus, each embodiment is recited. This approach is proper under Section 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claims 1-8 anticipated by SIEGEL 3,826,483.

SIEGEL does not anticipate as SIEGEL does not provide a frame that holds a metal sheet material taut, the metal sheet material being fixed thereto. The Advisory Action indicates that SIEGEL does disclose a structure capable of holding a metal sheet taut.

This is incorrect.

Claim 1 requires "on which legs fixing means, provided on the legs, for fixing, each one of the opposing edges of a piece of metal sheet material thereto,".

SIEGEL does not disclose fixing means that fix each one of the opposing edges of a piece of metal sheet material to the legs.

In the claimed invention, the metal sheet is fixed to each leg individually, so that a tensile force can be applied to the metal sheet. Holding a sheet material taut (claim 1) means holding the sheet material tight under a tensile force. In the invention, since the metal sheet is fixed, at the opposing edges to the legs, even if the tensile force is removed, the metal sheet remains individually fixed to each leg in the frame.

In SIEGEL, a planar work piece (plate-like electronic circuit board) is held in fixation between the arms of the holder under a compressive force (in V-grooves in the arms), as long as the compressive force is present. The planar work piece is not individually fixed to the arms, so that the work piece will fall out of fixation by the holder when the compressive force is removed.

Thus, the structure of SIEGEL is not capable of meeting the claim 1 recitations of conveying a tensile force from the arms of the holder to the planar work piece, the piece being fixed thereto.

Accordingly, there is no anticipation.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims are respectfully requested.

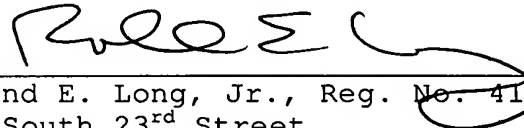
Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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